JOHN BROWN.

Ex-Commissioner Ware's Opinion of the Hero of Harper's Ferry.

"Great men change their minds; fools never."

Col. Eugene F. Ware, former Commissioner of Pensions, and well known as "Ironquill" poet, evidently prefers to be in the first named class. He has changed his mind. Not only has he changed his mind, but he has taken a whack at one of the popular Kansas idols and he has done it so vigorously that it looks as if he intended to throw the idol off its pedestal and drag it in the dust. The Kansas pioneer and literary dean of the State has made an assault on John Brown of Kansas, he who was hanged for treason and murder committed at Harper's Ferry in the unsettled and ominous days of 1859.

Twenty-five years ago Col. Ware composed his poem "John Brown," one of the most noted of his compositions. It was laudatory of Brown and his purpose to the extent of enthusiasm. From this he has changed to his bitter attack. A few years ago Col. Ware deserted the realms of poetry—he formally announced his retirement as a poet. Since that he has been thinking in prose and he has evidently been led into new paths. He has just given to the world a new book, a prose work which he calls "The Lyon Campaign and History of the First Iowa Infantry." It is a well-written, concise story of the early days of the war in the West and it is in this book that the erstwhile poet makes his savage assault on John Brown and his memory. The following is an etract from "The Lyon Campaign:"

"John Brown and his career became one of the episodes of the times. When he was in Kansas he was a drawback to the cause, and did nothing but point arguments against it. He was one of those men who are utterly without gift to benefit a principle which they espouse. He could not write anything. Horace Greeley could with his pen do more good in 30 minutes than a regiment of John Browns could do with a pen in a year. He could not make a speech. Jim Lane, an Anti-Slavery Democrat, could get onto a box on five minutes' notice and do more for the cause than John Brown could do in a lifetime by speechmaking. John Brown was ambitious, lawless, and egotistic. He wanted to be a leader, but lacked pen, speech and ability. He never could get but few, very few, followers, and they were gullible nobodies whom he picked up here and there. He was a monomaniac on the subject of his own importance, and with a desire to be a leader. A man who does not seem ambitious until late in life generally has a bad attack of it. Brown was vain, and wanted to be a subject of neighborhood discussion. His mind had a preposterous way of working, and he had no scruples. He made more trouble for his friends than for his foes. His actions gave talking points for his enemies against his friends. His Free State colleagues had to be apologists, and many little fictions were invented as reasons for his lawless acts. Finally, the Republican Party had to run him out of Kansas. They were glad to get rid of him. This was December, 1858. It was quite a while afterwards that he turned up at Harper's Ferry. He had there a mongrel lot of half-baked, witless followers, none of whom were ever heard of before in any reputable connection, and of whom the survivors were never heard afterwards. The whole plan of attack on Harper's Ferry was senseless and irrational. The time and place were impossible. As a mental effort, the scheme was one of hopeless imbecility. It could end only one way."

The Pension Haters.

Alexander Worden, Petoskey, Mich., is roused to wrath against such assailants of pensions as the editors of the Southern Christian Advocate. Those men have little of real inspiration or love of God in them, and cannot understand the hights to which the men who fought for the Union ascended.

Extending the Arrears.

George Milton Frye, West Townsend, Mass., is circulating a memorial to the members of Congress to endeavor to arouse them to the justice of extending the arrears of pensions. He served in the 17th Mass., and feels that he is denied what was due him by the unjust establishment of a limitation to arrears of pensions.

PERSISTENT SEEKERS OF THE PRESIDENCY.

(Continued from page one.)

sought the Presidency for many years with great force and skill was that remarkable man, George Clinton, of New York. Clinton was a man of quite unusual abilities and determination. He led the patriots before the Revolution against the strong opposition of the Tories, who were in the majority in

LEWIS CASS. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. HENRY CLAY. JOHN C. CALHOUN.

the State. He became a member of the Continental Congress, voted for the Declaration of Independence, and was commissioned a Brigadier-General in the army, but felt that he could be of more service as Governor of New York, to which office he had been elected. He was remarkably efficient in this position, overcame the machinations of the Tory majority, and held the office for 18 years. It is said that he had the most troublesome and weighty task of any man in the country, except the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. He felt that his services and abilities made him worthy of the first place, and he was among those voted for at the first Presidential election. He only received three votes, however, which did not even put him in the running for Vice President. He reappeared as a candidate in the next election, when his vote was increased to 50, but he was distanced by John Adams for the Vice Presidency. The third election saw him again in the field, when he received but seven electoral votes. This seems to have disgusted him with political life, and he retired to private pursuits, but in 1801 was again elected Governor of New York, and in 1804 ran for Vice President on the ticket with Jefferson and was elected. In 1808 he was a candidate for President against Madison on the Republican ticket, and received six electoral votes to Madison's 122. He was, however, re-elected Vice President, and held that office until his death, April 20, 1812.

Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson had a long and stormy struggle before he finally succeeded to the Presidency. He was first voted for in 1792, when he received four electoral votes. Four years later he got 68 electoral votes, which, being three less than John Adams, gave him the Vice Presidency. In 1800 he and Aaron Burr each received the same number of votes, 73, and then came the bitter struggle between them as to which should be President and which Vice President. This was finally settled by the House electing Jefferson. In 1804 he had a practical walk-over.

Charles C. Pinckney.

Charles C. Pinckney, one of the greatest of South Carolinians, had a particularly long and disappointing quest for the Presidency. He was a Federalist, and was first voted for by that party in 1800, when he received 64 votes out of 138, or nine less than would have entitled him to the Vice Presidency. The Federalists renominated him in 1804, when he received but 14 votes. He was again the Federalist candidate in 1808, when he received 47. Pinckney lives in the memory of his countrymen for his manly reply to the French demand for money, "War be it, then; millions for defense, sir, but not one cent for tribute." He came home from France, and was commissioned a Major-General in the army raised to defend the country.

John Q. Adams.

John Q. Adams, the "Old Man Eloquent" of the House of Representatives, the brilliant, accomplished, cranky old Yankee, who knew more about public business than any of his colleagues, and never let an occasion pass without reminding them of it, who was in every party and felt himself too good for each, had many vicissitudes in his quest for the Presidency. The first time he ran against Monroe and received one electoral vote. The next time he ran against Jackson, Crawford and Clay, and received 84 votes to Jackson's 99, and was elected by the House of Representatives, since Jackson had failed to receive the required majority. The third time he ran against Jackson, but only received 83 votes to Jackson's 178. Then he dismissed the Presidential bee from his bonnet, was elected a member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts, and continued in that position to his death, passing his time most agreeably in sticking pins into his pretentious colleagues. No man in the House of Representatives knew the weak spots of those around him as well as he, nobody could touch them more successfully, and no one could come off more victoriously in bouts with them.

Henry Clay.

The man who was oftenest for years in people's minds as an ideal President, and who missed that honor by the merest chances, was Henry Clay, the ideal politician, leader and orator. Henry Clay had every element and talent of a great popular leader. The orphan son of a poor Baptist preacher, he rose to be a great lawyer by sheer force of ability and will, and soon drifted into politics, went to Congress, was soon elected Speaker of the House, became a leader of the old Republicans, and practically forced the war with England. In securing the treaty of peace he clearly outclassed the British Commissioners, and brought home unexpectedly good terms. In 1824 he was one of the Republican candidates for President, and received 37 votes to 99 for Jackson and 41 for Crawford, the other two Republican candidates. In 1832 he was the candidate for the Republicans opposed to Jackson, and received 49 votes. He was not at first prominent in the newly-formed Whig Party, and did not appear as a candidate in 1836, and was defeated for the nomination in 1840 by Gen. William H. Harrison. In 1844 he was the unanimous choice of the Whigs, and received 105 votes to 170 for James K. Polk. His election had been confidently anticipated, but his defeat was due to his injudicious writing of letters, which showed that he was too anxious for the Presidency, and gave an opportunity for saying that he was ready to sell out anything for an election. He was again a candidate for the nomination in 1848, and it was a bitter disappointment to him that expediency demanded that Gen. Taylor should be preferred. He was re-elected to the Senate, where he maintained his old place in that brilliant galaxy of which Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun and T. H. Benton were shining stars, and died in 1852 in the 76th year of his age.

John C. Calhoun.

A thwarted Presidential ambition which had much to do with bringing about the civil war was that of John C. Calhoun. As a purely intellectual quantity John C. Calhoun was the ablest mind which the extreme South produced. He was a son of a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian clergyman, and had the race's remarkable aptitude for close analysis and rigid logic. He had become so much of a leader as to enter Monroe's Cabinet in 1817 as Secretary of War, and showed decided ability in that position, as he had in all previously held. People began to talk about him as suitable Presidential material, and he entered the race, but Gen. Jackson proved much the more popular, and Calhoun was twice elected Vice President on the ticket with Jackson. He expected to be Jackson's successor, but Jackson had never liked him, and his enmity was brought to the breaking point by the discovery that Calhoun had sought to have him called to account for his course in the Seminole War. Therefore, Jackson determined upon Martin Van Buren for his successor, and the famous Peggy Eaton episode was used to force Calhoun out of the Cabinet. This destroyed Calhoun's hopes for the Presidency, and he returned to South Carolina in sullen rage, prepared to fight anything and everything which Jackson favored. This led him to reverse his early position on a protective tariff, and to assert the right of the States to nullify any Federal law. Jackson is said to have expressed a regret as death approached that he had not taken the opportunity to hang Calhoun.

Daniel Webster.

Horace Greeley and other Whigs and substantially all New Englanders were unanimous in the belief that the "godlike Daniel" Webster was the greatest intellect which this country ever produced. Webster's fame reached its culmination in 1830, in his reply to the speech of Robert Y. Hayne, Senator from South Carolina, on the nature of the Union. This was an epoch-making oration, which stated in its best and most logical terms the Nationalist doctrine which is now the policy of the country. Webster had begun life as a Federalist and achieved much reputation in that party. Upon the organization of the Whig Party he became one of its leaders, and held himself to be its father. This assumption was not agreed to by any means by the rest of the party, and in 1836 the party had four candidates for President, Webster receiving but 14 of the 124 votes cast by the party. Four years later he was deeply angered at Gen. Harrison's being preferred to him, but he took an active part in the campaign and helped to elect Harrison, entering his Cabinet afterward as Secretary of State. He was a candidate for the nomination in 1844, and again received a wound to his pride in Henry Clay being preferred to him. His severest disappointment, however, came in 1848, when he felt that it was his last chance and that he had added strongly to the reasons which had before been so powerful in his favor. Expediency compelled the nomination of Gen. Taylor, which Webster at first openly denounced as one not fit to be made. He came around in time, however, and supported the Whig Administration in the Senate. He lost strength in the North by his support of the fugitive slave law, which was considered truckling to the South, and his last appearance before a Whig Convention was in 1852, when he was beaten by Gen. Scott for the nomination. This seemed to break his heart, for he went home and died.

Lewis Cass.

Gen. Lewis Cass was a man who would have made a good President and was undoubtedly superior in character and ability to some whom his party elected. He was Secretary of War under Jackson and as early as 1842 was proposed for the Presidency but failed to secure the Democratic nomination. He was nominated by the Democrats in 1848, but badly beaten by Gen. Zachary Taylor. He was a candidate for the nomination in 1852 and again in 1856, but the pro-slavery Democrats would have none of him. He is entitled to grateful remembrance by all patriotic Americans for his action while Secretary of State in Buchanan's Cabinet, when he resigned because the President refused to reinforce the forts at Charleston.

Stephen A. Douglas.

Next to Henry Clay probably Stephen A. Douglas, "the little Giant of the West," maintained for years the most enthusiastic following. A brilliant, popular orator, the advocate of measures which captivated the public mind, a shrewd political manager and an able and forceful man in every way, Douglas atracted to himself the young progressive Democrats of his party and became their idol. In the Senate he held his place in the foremost rank and he vainly sought to keep the Democratic Party in harmony on the Slavery question by his famous Squatter Sovereignty doctrine which proposed a middle course between the ultra, uncompromising pro-slavery advocates and the equally ultra uncompromising advocates of universal free soil. This doctrine denied that Congress had the right to legislate upon the question of slavery in the Territories, but that the status of a State should be settled by the actual residents. He was terribly disappointed as to the effects of this. His policy instead of quieting the contending elements only served as a firebrand, and the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, of which he was the author, really began the war by arraying the Pro-Slavery and Free Soil elements in line against one author in the new Territories. He had confidently expected the Democratic nomination for President, but in the Baltimore Convention of 1852 he received but 92 votes out of the total of 288. He went before the Cincinnati Convention in 1856, receiving 121 votes to 168 for Buchanan and 61 for Lewis Cass. In 1860 he had the Northern Democrats enthusiastically behind him for nomination at the Convention which assembled at Charleston, but they were met with equal determination by the Pro-Slavery Democrats, who refused to accept anyone not fully supporting their extreme views. After a stormy session the Southern Democrats withdrew, and the Convention reassembled at Baltimore, where Douglas received the nomination. In the election he received 1,300,000 votes, second only in number to those received by Mr. Lincoln, but this gave him only 12 electoral votes, while Lincoln received 180, Breckinridge, 72, and John Bell, 39.

Jefferson Davis.

Jefferson Davis, like John C. Calhoun, had strong aspirations to the Presidency, and undoubtedly the same disappointment took him into the course which finally led to his precipitating the country into a great civil war. He wanted to go still higher, but he saw no opportunitw as long as the South remained in the Union and the Democratic Party was dominated by such men as Douglas and Cass. He entered the Charleston Convention as a candidate and continued in the running thru some 69 ballots, getting only a small vote each time, while Douglas's vote was all the time in the neighborhood of 150.

James G. Blaine.

Since the war the candidate who was most often before the people was James G. Blaine, of Maine. Like Clay and Douglas, Blaine had the faculty of brilliant leadership in the highest degree and attached to himself ardent, enthusiastic young men in every section of the North and West. As Speaker of the House of Representatives and as Senator he kept the eyes of the country continually fixed upon him. In 1876 he was a prominent candidate before the Cincinnati Convention and on the seventh ballot received 351 votes, or more than any other candidate. The opposition then combined against him and nominated Gov. Rutherfard B. Hayes, of Ohio. He was a formidable candidate again in 1880, but there were so many elements opposed to him that finally on the 36th ballot his friends and those of John Sherman united in throwing the nomination to Gen. James A. Garfield. Again in 1884 he appeared as a candidate, finally receiving the nomination on account of the inability of his opponents to unite and he made a notable canvass against Grover Cleveland. He was defeated by a small majority, it is said not over 1,000, which threw New York State against him. It was claimed that this was due to the Rev. Mr. Burchard's unfortunate, but famous, alliteration of Rum, Romanism and Rebellion. Mr. Blaine again appeared as a candidate before the Republican Convention of 1888, but his power had greatly lessened and he was soon withdrawn in favor of Gen. Benjamin Harrison. His hopes were not entirely extinguished, however. He resigned from President Harrison's Cabinet in 1892 to enter the coming convention as a candidate. His name received little consideration and Blaine died a few months after.

John Sherman.

The man of modern times upon whom failure to be elected President sat most severely was John Sherman, of Ohio. Sherman was one of the most distinguished of the host of distinguished men whom Ohio has produced. For nearly half a century he was constantly in the lead in State and National politics and occupying positions of the greatest responsibility. As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee during the war and the principal agent in carrying out the resumption of specie payments, as Secretary of the Treasury, as Senator and as Secretary of State, he was closely identified, if not the actual factor, in many of the most important events of that momentous period. He began his candidacy for the Presidency before the Republican Convention of 1880, was strongly in the running in 1884 and again in 1888. A man of strong, compelling nature he took deeply to heart his failure to receive the nomination, which he felt that he had richly earned, and he went to his grave saddened by the feeling that the country had not been entirely appreciative of him.

Who Knew James Johnson?

Editor National Tribune: Could you find the regiment and company that James Johnson was supposed to have enlisted in? It was some company from Cora, Ill. He was my father, and died when I was three years old, and his discharge is lost. It was lost by a man who had taken it to an attorney to apply for a pension, about 30 years ago, and while in his possession it was lost. If you can help me please do so at once.—Ruben Johnson, Cora, Ill.

Discrimination Against Widows.

J. B. Fowler, 186th N. Y., Rochester, N. Y., gives us thanks and appreciation for our advocacy of the Widows' Pension Bill and our opposition to the unjust and cruel discrimination against widows. This line should never have been drawn and Congress cannot remove it too soon.

The Poets.

G. M. Bailey, Arrow, Colo., differs from previous contributors to The National Tribune in deciding most strongly in favor of Whittier. His memory has become immortal and it is as a sweet ragrance to all Americans.

Where Did Adams Vote?

Editor National Tribune: Replying to the statement made by Comrade John H. Adams, of the 28th Pa., of Monterey, Mexico, in the issue of The National Tribune of June 4, 1908, that he can go Comrade Chas. Bush, of Salina, Kan., one better, as he voted at the election in 1864, when only 16 years old. He was then in Ayers's Division, Fifth Corps, at People's Farm, in front of Petersburg. He did go one better in the election, but he is a little mixed about Ayers's Division. It had at that time 15 regiments of infantry, viz, The 5th, 15th, 140th and 146th N. Y., 1st, 4th, 7th and 8th Md., 3d, 4th and 8th Del., and the 157th, 190th, 191st and 210th Pa. The 28th Pa. was in Geary's Division, Twelfth Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

Further, it was not then in front of Petersburg. It left there Aug. 18 for the Weldon Railroad, and took possession after considerable fighting. To regain possession of the road, the enemy made repeated and desperate assaults, but was each time repulsed with great loss. We remained there until relieved by the Sixth Corps, Dec. 7. (We had a few reconnoissances during the time.) Then left and destroyed the Weldon Railroad to Hicksford, then returned to Hatcher's Run.—Chas. Bush, Salina, Kan.

Gen. Grant.

Editor National Tribune: Your editorial on Grant, our grat Captain, in the issue of the 4th inst., is good and just. He was human, and had faults, but was always a patriot, and is a hero. He was, like Lincoln, sent from God to do what his hand found to do.—James W. Eldridge, Sergeant, 127th N. Y., and First Lieutenant, 23d U. S. C., Hartford, Conn.